

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Country and City.

APAPER published near the southern boundary of Missouri speaks of the great advantages to farmers of the telephone where it has been introduced. The improvement, it is remarked, "places city and country in immediate communication, rendering unnecessary four-fifths of the trips that have been made on country roads." Highway may be muddy and weather stormy, but the world can be rung up according to the necessities of the moment, facilitating business and social life, and saving an immense amount of time and effort. A marked tendency of the age is to bring the country into closer touch with the centers of population. Electric roads are multiplying and making their way into neighborhoods that could not hope for steam lines. Rural free delivery of the mails is moving onward with great strides. Over 20,000 routes are in operation. Missouri alone has 1,200. Farmers get their letters and the daily newspapers delivered almost at their doors. Each day's events reach the country promptly, and the old rural isolation is disappearing. Means of ready travel grow better and keep on extending, and the good roads organizations gain constantly in active support.

Within a dozen years electric transit in the cities has more than doubled the area suitable for town residences. Cities themselves are extending farther into the country, of which suburban sections are a pleasing modification. Labor on the farm has been rendered easier by ingenious machinery. All whose memories stretch back to pioneer days can bear witness to the enormous advance toward bringing country and city closer together. Progress in that respect proceeds at an accelerated pace. Going to the city or taking a run into the country is a commonplace incident. How far the space between will eventually be annihilated is beyond the range of conjecture, but the old lines of separation are disappearing in so many ways that the future relations of country and city are full of hopeful interest.

There is a reflex side to the drift of the population to the cities. Love of country life is a natural and general feeling. The merchant who comes to the city as a youth to make his fortune often returns to the country when he retires, and dreams of doing it all through his business career. He would hardly be willing to admit the deep tenderness of the memories of the old farm. All the remoteness of that quiet nook has passed away. You can "ring up" the farmer of to-day and find that he is abreast with the current news and that he has it in printed details, thanks to the rural delivery carrier.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Leap Year Over Half Gone.

WE do not wish to urge anyone to rash and precipitate action, but it is our duty to call the attention of young ladies, and, indeed, of all unmarried ladies, to the exceptional privileges which immemorial custom allows them in the quarterly period through which we are so rapidly passing. The number of weddings shows no increase over ordinary years, and it is to be feared that the feminine world has not realized how little potential energy there is in water which has passed the mill. The decay of the peculiar customs of Leap Year is strongly evidenced by the almost complete lack of jokes on the subject in the newspapers, since it is well known that topical humor lingers long after the vanishing of its cause.

So far from Leap Year sinking into noxious desuetude, it might be expected that its peculiar privileges would be more widely used than ever before, now our young women are becoming more adventurous and also much harder to suit. The requirements for admission to matrimony imposed on the young men by the opposite sex have risen as rapidly as the standard of scholarship in the universities, and a young man whose attainments a few years ago would have been considered sufficient to qualify him for the position of master of a household would nowadays have to be content with his degree of bachelor.

Really, it is not at all certain that women do not do most of the proposing every year. Very little is known about this mysterious though important topic, anyway. Each person's experiences are limited to a comparatively few instances, and these are always regarded by both parties as exceptional in all respects. Novels are also

gather unreliable, and the government has not added questions concerning the methods of matrimonial negotiations to the census queries, although many more personal and less important vital statistics are procured. It may even be doubted whether matrimonial engagements are necessarily or even commonly preceded by formal declarations, any more than are military engagements.

However that may be, we do not recommend our maidens, no matter how desirous they are, and should be, to obtain the latest men for husbands, to adopt the conventional form of proposal. Breaking the ice is a disagreeable process. It is better to thaw it. And let no one abstain from such maidenly maneuvers as she can advantageously use for fear lest the man should, through gallantry, accept her unwillingly. It is rare that a man is persuaded into doing anything he really does not want to do; much more rare than women think. A man's affection for the opposite sex is in the beginning general and diffuse. A man is naturally so altruistic that he normally loves all women, and on which one of them he ultimately focuses the full force of his affection depends on circumstances—and on the woman.—New York Independent.

Fraud Orders.

WHEN a business concern in the United States begins suddenly to receive a large number of letters daily, it may be sure that, although no ripple has disturbed the surface, a quiet investigation is going on, and if there is anything dishonest about the business a notice will soon appear from the postmaster, to the effect that the Department at Washington has ordered the retention of all letters addressed to that man or company.

The dishonesty which is held to justify the issuing of a fraud order may not be a mere barefaced attempt to steal—an effort to get something for nothing. The charging of an excessive profit, or misleading advertising, has called forth such an order. A recent case in point is that of a company which advertised to furnish seed for an agricultural product and to buy the product at market prices. The order against the company was issued because it was learned that it sold in small quantities, for a total of \$800, seed which it bought in bulk for \$3; and because it represented the product as easy to raise, when, in fact, it is difficult.

This fearless attitude and action of the Government is of the greatest possible benefit to the country at large in two ways. It checks, indeed it stops absolutely, one kind of fraud, and it protects innocent persons from loss through that fraud. The thing on which stress should be laid is the availability of this strong arm of protection.

There is always a large number of fraudulent schemes afoot, dependent upon the publicity which they get through advertising. When one's attention is attracted by such an advertisement, he has only to call the attention of his postmaster to it, and to ask him to notify the Department at Washington. To do this in every suspicious case is a duty which every honest man owes to his neighbor as well as to himself.—Youth's Companion.

Japanese Inventiveness.

IT has long been supposed that the capacity for initiation is the characteristic of Western nations alone. According to some leading anthropologists, as one goes from West to East he finds this capacity disappearing and the capacity for imitation taking its place. The Chinese and Japanese are imitators, not inventors.

But the present war between the Russians and the Japanese is rapidly proving the idea to be mere assumption. It is the Eastern rather than the Western people which, in this contest, are exhibiting the capacity for initiation and invention. Their strategy is almost faultless, and it is their own. Their artillery is astonishingly destructive, and, in some of its most deadly features, is the product of Japanese invention. Their naval tactics have been so unexpected and successful as to promise a revolution in the future methods of naval warfare. When peace comes and the Japanese carry their genius into the industrial world, they will demonstrate perhaps in a more telling way that the capacity for initiation does not diminish as one travels toward the rising sun.—Church Standard.

A RUSSIAN HEROINE.



MRS. E. W. VORONOB.

Mrs. E. W. Voronoba, wife of the commandant of the maritime province of dragons, has organized at her own expense a transport system for the wounded. She has also joined the Sisters of Mercy during the war. She has even signified her willingness to go to the front and serve in the Red Cross ranks. Her purse is always open to any demand having for its object the promotion of deeds of mercy in connection with caring for wounded Russian soldiers.

real struggle to do it, and there were so many things I wanted to do. I'm afraid I did it just because it was my duty. But I received a greater blessing than I gave."

The experience of one woman may be a suggestion to other people, returning for Old Home Week. Theirs, too, may be the blessing of Him who said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."—Youth's Companion.

Can't Pay in Pennies.

Ordinarily when a debtor appears before a long time creditor there is no questioning of the United States coin in which the debt is to be paid, but the wide possibilities possessed by an arbitrary creditor in stipulating just what coins and in what amounts he will receive payment are enough almost to discourage borrowing.

You can't force a mean creditor to take more than 25 cents' worth of nickels or 25 cents' worth of copper cents. If you could get as much as \$5 worth of old silver 3-cent pieces of another generation, you could unload \$5 on him, just as he would have to take \$5 worth of the silver 5-cent pieces and \$5 worth of the obsolete 20-cent pieces, which made so much trouble in the

late '70s. But you can pay out \$10 in silver dimes and silver quarters and silver half dollars. The trade dollar, of which there are a few still coming into the treasury of the United States for redemption, are worth nothing, while the standard dollar is an unlimited legal tender, as is the old "dollar of our dads," the first of which was coined in 1794 and the last in 1873.

Coins that virtually have disappeared from circulation are gold \$3 and \$1 pieces, the trade dollar of silver, the nickel 3-cent piece, the copper 2-cent piece, the copper half cent, and silver 3 and 5-cent pieces.

Great Field of Salt.

The great field of crystallized salt at Salton, Cal., in the middle of the Colorado desert, is 204 feet below the level of the sea and is more than a thousand acres in extent. Its surface is as white as snow, and when the sun is shining its brilliance is too dazzling for the eye. The field is constantly supplied by the many salt springs in the adjacent foothills.

When a woman puts on a black silk dress she hasn't worn in months, somehow it doesn't create the sensation she expected; it is full of creases, and doesn't hang right.

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